Gram Panchayats without Post Offices

1261. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are several thousand Gram Panchayats without post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the exact number of such Panchayats, State-wise ; and

(c) what are Government's plans to cover those Panchayats also and by what time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of Gram Panchayat villages without a post office in the country State-wise is given in Statement. (*See* below):

(c) Post Offices are opened subject to norm-based justifications, approval of targets and resources available. There is a target for opening 500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in the rural areas of the country, including Gram Panchayat villages during the Annual Plan 1999-2000, subject to availability of resources.

Statement

Number of Gram Panchayat Villages in the Country without a Post Office, State-wise as on 31.3.99

Sl. No.	Name of Circle/State	Number of Gram Panchayat Villages without a Post Office
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6370
2.	Assam	72
3.	Bihar	3019
4.	Delhi	Nil
5.	Gujarat	5584

1	2	3
	Dadra Nagar Haveli	Nil
	Daman & Diu	Nil
6.	Haryana	3640
7.	Himachal Pradesh	521
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	371
9.	Karnataka	447
10.	Kerala	Nil
	Lakshadweep	Nil
11.	Madhya Pradesh	20794
12.	Maharashtra	15456
	Goa	Nil
13.	North East	Nil
	Arunachal Pradesh	1827
	Manipur	Nil
	Meghalaya	582
	Mizoram	267
	Nagaland	736
	Tripura	391
14.	Orissa	192
15.	Punjab	8218
	Chandigarh	117
16.	Rajasthan	978
17.	Tamil Nadu	3975
	Pondicherry	Nil
18.	Uttar Pradesh	37351
19.	West Bengal	678
	Sikkim	6
	A & N Islands	25
	TOTAL	111517